

THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER

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IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OSMAN

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

Reverend Jeffrey McPike, BCC



December 2016

From the desk of Pastor McPike

“Coming”

Railroad tracks cut Philo in half about like they cut off Osman from traffic to the west. The track between Philo and Tolono is rather flat, and it is possible to see the train coming almost from that distance when crossing the track on 130. (Unfortunately, we live south of the tracks... and so when a train comes through it cuts us off from Urbana AND Osman, at least the direct route).

I’m always fascinated by how the train can be observed coming down the track. Whether slow or fast, the motion of the train coming for a long time is constant and deliberate as it rolls down the track. The coming of the train is usually never good news when trying to get from one part of town to another. Of course, because the trains coming through both Osman and Philo are always ONLY freight, to the average person they represent only potential delay as we see them coming. In other words, we don’t get the benefit of train coming as good news... that someone we love is going to arrive, or that we are able to board the train in order to get to a desired destination.

The season of Advent means “coming”. We think often of Christmas coming, and certainly the decorations and many preparations for holiday gatherings are a major part of our lives during this time. The church has always considered Advent to be a season to talk more about Christ’s coming than ‘Christmas preparation’. We teach three such “comings” of Jesus – that He came, once in time, starting as a baby in a manger but then growing up, living among His people, suffering, dying and rising again to defeat sin, death, and the devil for us.

Another way we talk about the coming of Jesus is to talk about His coming again at the end of time – judgment day, when the world will end. While this seems to be a rather abstract concept, as the likelihood of the world ending seems so remote compared to all other things we have to worry about, we are sobered by the realization that Christ’s coming for each of us at the “end” is the end of our lives. Still, unless one is actively dying, that does not receive so much attention.

Christ coming among us on a regular basis is the third way that we in church talk about his coming. Christ comes every Sunday to Immanuel Lutheran Church of Osman! Yes... through His word, as we read, study and contemplate His word. Christ also comes regularly through the sacraments. In Baptism, the presence of Christ comes to live within us. Through the sacrament of Holy Communion, Christ comes giving us His power through giving His crucified and resurrected body. Advent is a time that we can think in a renewed interest how we can invite others to come join us on a regular basis... both members who are not as frequent among us, and also others without a church home, to where Jesus comes to us on a regular basis.

Come, Lord Jesus, be our Guest. Jesus is our guest, regularly teaching, forgiving, and feeding us right in our little church at Osman.

Christmas Eve Service

The Sunday School children will be performing a skit written by Pastor McPike for the Christmas Eve Service. The practices will be Saturday, December 10, and Saturday, December 17, from 9 - 10:30 a. m. On Saturday, December 17, the children are invited to a Christmas camp in the hall following practice until 1 p. m. The children will eat lunch, make a craft, bake cookies, and possibly make some more fleece blankets to be given to the homeless in Champaign County. The children will also practice on Sunday, December 18, during Sunday School time. The program will be on Saturday, December 24 at 7 p. m.

Sunday School Schedule

There will be some changes in the Sunday School schedule in December. The children will practice during their Sunday School time on December 18th. There will NOT be Sunday School on Sunday, December 25th. There will NOT be adult Bible Class on either December 18 or 25th.

Decorating of the Church



The Christmas decorating of the church will be done in a progressive style again this year. The tree will be displayed and the greenery will be hung for Sunday, December 4th. The decorations will be added to the tree on Saturday, December 10th at 10:30 a. m. All members are welcome to come to help decorate the Lord's house for the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

Christmas Day Service

Come worship and celebrate the birth of our Savior on Christmas morning with a hymn sing at 9:30 a.m. in the church sanctuary. Christmas service will begin at 10 a.m. Hope to see you there!

Christmas Caroling

Christmas caroling to the shut-ins has been scheduled for Sunday, December 11th. Everyone is welcome to use their voices to bring the Christmas message to our shut-ins as well as other residents in local nursing homes and assisted living facilities. The group will leave from the church around 1 p.m.

Christmas Treat Bags

Anyone who wants to contribute to the fruit and candy sacks which are given out on Christmas Eve can give their money to one of the elders: Marvin Clemmons, Shane Zimmerman, Aaron Warsaw, or Don Warsaw. A Thrivent Action Team Card for \$250 which Brenda Hendricks applied for will be used to cover part of the expenses. All members are welcome to come and help sack the goodies on Saturday, December 24, at 9 a.m. in the fellowship hall.

LWML News

LWML will hold its fourth quarter December meeting on December 8, 2016, at 7 p.m. in the hall. Barb Whitehouse-Gercken will have the topic and Connie and Annette Warsaw will serve as hostesses. Secret pals will be revealed and new ones will be drawn for next year. All ladies are invited to attend.

Quilting will resume January 5 and 7 in the fellowship hall. All members are welcome to help tie quilts for Lutheran World Relief to be used in areas of need around the world.

New Member Reception

New members, Dave and Sara Kunde and Kari Genzel and family, were recognized and formerly welcomed at a reception in their honor after church on December 4th. Coffee and donuts were served while they enjoyed fellowship with our church family. Welcome to the Kundes, Kari, and family! May God bless their worship here at Immanuel!

Ladies Aid News

The Ladies Aid Christmas Luncheon will be held on December 7th with a potluck meal at noon followed by a gift exchange. Husbands and guests are welcome. **Congratulations** to the new Ladies Aid officers: President- Brenda Hendricks, Vice President- Shirley Sprau, Secretary- Wilma Grussing, Flower Treasurer-Debbie Lammle, and LCFS Treasurer-Agnes Martinie. Connie Warsaw will remain as Treasurer and Debbie Lammle will remain as Seminary Correspondent. Thank you, ladies, for your continued service!

Thanks to the Ladies Aid members for the baked goods and other items given to Vicar Johnston upon his return visit on November 13th. Thanks to Shirley Sprau and Debbie Lammle for decorating and distributing the miniature Christmas trees from the Ladies Aid to the shut-ins. Thanks to the Ladies Aid members for providing the refreshments and Shirley Sprau for preparing the drinks for the Advent Social on November 30th. Thanks to Wilma Grussing and Connie Warsaw for planning the funeral dinner for the Carole Warsaw family, and to all the other church members who helped with food and serving the meal. Our church always comes together with willing hands when needed!



(Vicar Brian Johnston received a basket of goodies from the Ladies Aid for Thanksgiving.)



(Phyllis Burnett received one of the decorated trees that were provided by the Ladies Aid.)

Important Dates

Dec. 4th-New Member Reception after church

Dec. 7- Ladies Aid Christmas Luncheon at noon

Dec. 7- Church Council at 7 p.m.

Dec. 8-LWML at 7 p.m.

Dec. 10- Program Practice 9:00-10:30 a.m.; Decorating Church 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Dec. 11-Christmas Caroling to Shut-ins

Dec. 14-Choir practice - 7 p.m.

Dec. 17- Sunday School practice and Camp 9-1:00 p.m.

Dec. 18- Program Practice- 8:30-9:30 a.m.

Dec. 21- Choir practice – 7 p.m.

Dec. 24-Christmas Eve Service -7 p.m.

Dec. 25- Hymn Sing 9:30 a.m. followed by Christmas Service- 10 a.m.

Church Council Minutes

Immanuel Lutheran Church of Osman

Church Council Meeting-October 12, 2016

The Immanuel Lutheran Church of Osman held its monthly council meeting on October 12, 2016, with John Lammle presiding. Other members attending were Aaron Warsaw, Bob Zimmerman, Lee Whitehouse, John Gercken, Debbie Lammle, Diana Zimmerman, Shirley Sprau, and Pastor McPike. Pastor McPike opened the meeting with devotion from Psalm 121. Secretary's minutes were read and approved. Treasurer, Bob Zimmerman, agreed to complete his term, but indicated he does not plan to run for a second term. The treasurer's report was read with a balance of \$64,435.93. Aaron Warsaw made a motion to accept the report; Lee Whitehouse seconded; motion carried.

Since the position of treasurer has been difficult to fill in recent years, Helpingstine Accounting in Fisher will be contacted to obtain an estimate of cost should we need to utilize an outside firm starting in 2017.

Discussion was held on the repair of the copier. The service contract ran out in 2013 and the copier has not been serviced since then. Lee Whitehouse made a motion to keep the present copier and service as needed; John Gercken seconded; motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor McPike reported on the 500th anniversary of the posting of Luther's "95 Theses". On October 30th, Immanuel Osman will have a special Reformation Service, with the bulletin printed in German script. The LCMS suggested the following celebrations-November 13th, the nearest date to Martin Luther's birth and baptism; February 19th, the closest date to Luther's death; June 25th recognizing the presentation of the Augsburg Confession; and October 29th recognizing the posting of the 95 Theses. Pastor will use the resource from LCMS called "Faces of the Reformation" for his adult bible study in November. Pastor Ehlers will be filling in on November 6th.

Pastor reported that he will collaborate with Connie Warsaw concerning the Christmas Eve program. Christmas Day service will begin at 10 a.m. with a hymn sing beginning at 9:30 a.m. Communion will be celebrated.

Pastor then informed the council that he was considering leading a mini tour to LCMS sites in St. Louis and Perry County. Sites to be visited would be Concordia seminary, historic Trinity in St. Louis, International Center of LCMS, and other German sites in Perry County. This 2-3 day trip is being considered in late June or early July. It was suggested that Thrivent Choice dollars might be used to help with transportation costs.

Pastor then stated that Kari Genzel and children, Ashley and CJ, transferred from Peace Thomasboro to Immanuel Osman. An acceptance of transfer by voters is required by the constitution. A new member recognition was discussed.

A dedication for the stain glass windows donated by the Frances Zimmerman family and Paul Zimmerman family will be arranged soon.

Chairman Lammle stated that the financial committee and treasurer would collaborate on the 2017 budget and present to the council.

Elder's Report: Elder, Aaron Warsaw, stated that the greeters were a great help during Sunday morning service, especially when newsletters were distributed.

Trustee's Report: Discussion was held on another possible way to improve the current ramp. All agreed to continue with the proposal voted on during the special meeting on September 18th, when it was decided to use concrete for the new ramp. It was suggested that fund raisers could be used to raise money for the ramp project, as well as requesting donations, and using memorial money. Before using memorial money, the families will be contacted for their approval. It was also suggested that the \$7000 targeted for drainage (which might not be needed at this time) could be used on the ramp project. After discussion, the council decided to add the cost of the ramp to the 2017 budget, but contact Shaun Windle to place our name on his schedule for next spring. The quote given is locked in for one year, even though material costs might increase. All agreed that it was prudent to comply with ADA recommendations. Lee Whitehouse was asked to explain the ramp project at the upcoming voters meeting. Lee then discussed small jobs around the church and hall to be completed. Chairman Lammle suggested posting these jobs and soliciting the assistance of those on the Handy Man List.

Church Activities: Chairman Lammle stated that the hay ride and wiener roast was a great success and that Jeri Bidner was surprised with her personal parking sign. The

youth harvest breakfast is being planned by Nikki Gallier. Diana Zimmerman, Shirley Sprau, and Debbie Lammle will work on decorations for the Reformation Fest/Pastor Appreciation event. It was approved by council to bring alcoholic beverages to the event. \$250 will be given to the band with a tip basket out to make up the difference of \$100 per member requested.

The Stewardship Committee, led by Dwight and Terri Hooker and Roy and Annette Whitehouse, are planning a benefit soup supper on November 12th for Jodi Burgess.

Discussion was held on the Thanksgiving Meal before the Service on November 20th. Because of the Warsaw wedding on that same day, the attendance will be decreased. It was decided to continue with the meal, but place a sign-up on the bulletin board to have advance notice of those attending.

Old Business: Two church direction signs were ordered and have been received. Posts and hardware have been purchased and will be installed in October. ILDOT will be notified, as required, after installation has been completed.

Chairman Lammle stated he planned to post the council nominations ballot and a sign-up sheet in December to allow others an opportunity to sign-up for the position. Nominations will also be taken from the floor the day of the election. It was brought up that the head usher position could be filled by an adult.

Chairman Lammle will have a church worker pay and benefit summary ready for the next council meeting. He is also putting together a staff manual which will contain staff pay and benefit summaries along with job descriptions. It will also contain LCMS manual and pay recommendations.

New Business: Chairman Lammle presented the resignation letter of Linda Warsaw as church secretary. Since this is a paid position, the job will be posted on the church bulletin board, along with the job description, so to allow all members the opportunity to apply for the position.

Chairman Lammle will alert Brenda Hendricks of the listing and thank her for a job well done! Council will review the applicants for the secretary's position and chose the best qualified. Chairman Lammle then

solicited the help of the council to modify the job description for the secretary.

Lee Whitehouse made a motion to double Pastor's gift from last year's Pastor Appreciation gift; Debbie Lammle seconded; motion carried.

The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Debbie Lammle

Church Council Positions

The Nominating Committee will post the proposed nominations for 2017 Church Council positions on the bulletin board at the back of the church on December 11th. There will also be a sign-up sheet to allow others to sign-up for an office. The positions needed for 2017 include treasurer, finance, trustee, council secretary, two elders, assistant Sunday School superintendent, and head usher.



To my wonderful church family,

I don't have the words to express my gratitude for the generous donations and all who volunteered their time and talents for my benefit supper. From the delicious food to all the people that set up, served, decorated, organized and washed dishes - I thank you all from the bottom of my heart. Also, thank you for the continued prayers and well wishes throughout my diagnosis and continued treatment- it is heartwarming to know I have so many people supporting me!!! God has truly blessed me!

Thank you again for everything!
Jodi Burgess

January Dates

Jan. 1st- New Year's Day Service with communion
Jan. 8th-Voters Meeting and Potluck

Reformation Fest/ Pastor Appreciation Event

The annual Reformation Fest and Pastor Appreciation Event was held at Immanuel Lutheran Church of Osman with fifty-one members and friends present. A great time was had by all partaking in German cuisine and listening to German music presented by "Maria and Company", a group out of the Champaign area which included an accordionist, clarinetist, and a trombonist. The German menu was provided by Pastor McPike, Darryl Redding, Sue VanWakeman, and Debbie Lammle, with meat and other dishes by the congregation. (A special thanks to Larry Lutz for frying the German pancakes.) After the meal, the Pastor was presented a monetary gift from the congregation in appreciation for all his dedication to Immanuel Osman. He also received several cards, notes, and letters during the month of October, which is Pastor Appreciation month. Nick Haggin sang a special song for Pastor McPike, followed by the choir singing the Reformation Polka, accompanied by Alicia Haggin. Several pictures of Pastor McPike were framed and posted on a foam board, thanks to Sharon McPike, Bob and Diana Zimmerman, and Debbie Lammle. Pastor McPike explained the significance of several of the photos to the group. With the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017, the Reformation Fest will certainly be celebrated at Osman again next year!



Congratulations to Aaron Warsaw and Rong Ma who were united in Holy Matrimony here at Immanuel on Sunday, November 20th. Aaron is the son of Steve and Marsha Warsaw and Rong is the daughter of Hongkui Ma and Shuhua Su. The couple traveled to China this week to get married in her native country. The couple will be moving to Idaho soon as they follow career choices. May the Lord bless this marriage with His love and continual care.

With Deepest Sympathy

Our heartfelt sympathy goes to the family and friends of Carole Jo (CJ) Warsaw who was called to her heavenly home on November 15th. Her funeral was held here at Immanuel on Monday, November 21st. May our loving Lord grant comfort and peace to all those who mourn.



Poinsettias

If you would like to help adorn the altar for Christmas with a red poinsettia, please sign-up on the bulletin board by December 17. The price of each flower is \$12. Please pay Bob Zimmerman, our church treasurer, and make checks to Immanuel Lutheran Church of Osman. Poinsettias may be taken home after church on January 1st or before if you wish. Thanks for your donation.



Benefit Soup Supper

Thank you to all who volunteered their time on Saturday, November 12, to make the benefit soup supper for Jodi Burgess a success. Jodi Burges is undergoing continued treatments for Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. The free will offering collected at the event totaled \$2858. Some of the Thrivent Choice Dollars donated to our church will be added to this total. Approximately 150 people were served with delicious soups, sandwiches, and pies. Fellowship abounded as the food was eaten. Thanks to Roy and Annette Whitehouse and Dwight and Terri Hooker for planning this benefit. **John 15:12** *"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you..."*

Giving at Christmas

On Sunday, November 6th, our Sunday School children helped to pack Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes which are sponsored by Samaritan's Purse. The boxes were packed during their regular Sunday School time. Two Thrivent Action Team cards for \$250 each were used to buy the supplies for the boxes and to cover the \$7 per box postage charge. Terri Hooker and Connie Warsaw applied for these cards. The congregation also donated school supplies in August which were added to the gift. The boxes were then delivered to the local pick-up destination in our area which was the Bible Church in Gibson City. The Sunday School children were excited to add a note in some boxes about themselves. Pastors around the world host shoebox distributions in places where people may not know Christ and invite them to follow Him. Other churches use the boxes as resources for outreach in orphanages and other at-risk areas. A Gospel story booklet "The Greatest Gift" is added to each box so each recipient can learn of the greatest gift at Christmas.



"Joy to the World"

If you notice the lyrics of the song, *Joy to the World*, you will see nothing about shepherds, a manger, wise men, angels, or any other character or element that we normally associate with the Christmas story. The reason being that Isaac Watts did not write *Joy to the World* to be a Christmas song. The original theme of this song was the second coming of the Lord. Christmas won't always be a joyful time, but when Jesus comes back, even the rocks will sing!



Christmas Tree Tradition

The decorated Christmas tree can be traced back to the ancient Romans who during their winter festival decorated trees with small pieces of metal during Saturnalia, a winter festival in honor of Saturnus, the god of agriculture.

An evergreen, the Paradise tree, was decorated with apples as a symbol of the feast of Adam and Eve held on December 24th during the middle ages.

Christmas trees were sold in Alsace in 1531. Alsace was at that time a part of Germany. Today it is part of France. The trees were sold at local markets and set up in homes undecorated.

Sixteenth century folklore credited **Martin Luther** as being the first to decorate an indoor tree. After a walk through a forest of evergreens with shining stars overhead, Luther tried to describe the experience to his family and showed them by bringing a tree into their home and decorating it with candles

The custom of the Christmas tree was introduced in the United States during the War of Independence by Hessian troops. An early account tells of a Christmas tree set up by American soldiers at Fort Dearborn, Illinois, the site of Chicago, in 1804. Most other early accounts in the United States were among the German settlers in eastern Pennsylvania.

By 1850, the Christmas tree had become fashionable in the eastern states. Until this time, it had been considered a quaint foreign custom.

Franklin Pierce was the first president to introduce the Christmas tree to the White House in 1856 for a group of Washington Sunday School children. The first national Christmas Tree was lighted in the year 1923 on the White House lawn by President Calvin Coolidge.

(Taken from the University of Illinois Extension website)

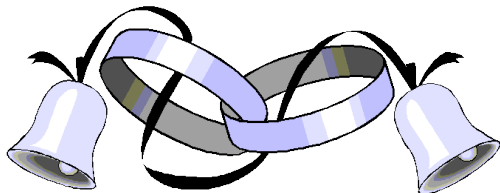


Birthdays of the Month

Larry Camp.....12-01
 Myron Zimmerman.....12-02
 Jonathon Schuh.....12-04
 David Hasty.....12-05
 David Brown.....12-08
 Deborah Martin.....12-09
 Darren Peyton.....12-12
 Jerred Grussing.....12-17
 Alicia Haggin.....12-17
 Amber Hendricks.....12-17
 Connie Grussing.....12-18
 Wilma Forrest.....12-20
 Diana Zimmerman.....12-21
 Nathan Hooker.....12-25
 Deb Johnson.....12-28
 John Grussing.....12-31

Anniversaries

Jodi and Jake Stockle.....12-04-1999
 Dorothy and Gene Welborn.....12-20-1953
 Martha and Darwin Warsaw.....12-31-196



Christmas Camp????

Attention Sunday School Children – do not miss Christmas Camp which will be held after practice on Saturday, December 17th until 1 p. m. in the hall. We will be making a craft, baking cookies to be given to the elderly, making fleece blankets for the homeless, and enjoying lunch! Connie Warsaw used a \$250 Thrivent action team card to buy the supplies for this day.

Get your Christmas spirit on!

Statistics

Date	Sunday School	High School	Bible Class
November 6	6	1	8
November 13	4	0	9
November 20	4	0	9
November 27	3	0	3

Elder Schedule

January Aaron	February Marvin	March Don
April Aaron	May Shane	June Shane
July Don	August Marvin	September Shane
October Aaron	November Marvin	December Don
	January 2017 Marvin	

Come let us
Adore
 Him

